



Duval County Council of PTAs

"Educating Parents, Loving Children"

March 31, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Duval County Council of PTAs to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of program were conducted by the National PTA, *U.S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead we request the following:

- * That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L, (for language).;
- * That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- * That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- * That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

President
Vicki Drake

First Vice President
Enid Llort

Second Vice President
Bonnie Ennis

Third Vice President
Nita McKelvey

Recording Secretary
Rose Nettles

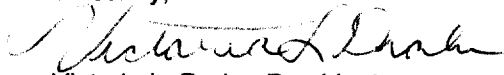
Corresponding Secretary
Ann Shiver

Treasurer
Cheryl Blum

* That the rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victoria L. Drake".

Victoria L. Drake, President
Duval County Council of PTAs

The signatures below are members of the Duval County Council of PTAs who are in support of a content-based rating system.

1. Loretta B. Crusa
2. Christine R. Buckley
3. Bonnie P. Dunnis
4. Donna Christensen
5. Thomas Corbin
6. Edna Hagg
7. Betty H. Blanton
8. Kay Reese
9. Jacy Scott
10. Linda H. Mobley
11. Merrie Smith
12. Nina McFadden
13. Dale Schenck
14. Anna Skerian
15. Elaine Y. Patrick
16. Ron Nettles
17. Walter M. Christensen
18. Sonny Waymaster
19. Patricia J. Rioux
20. Rita Russell Houghton
21. Georgia Woodard
22. Penny Christian

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commisioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

My Husband and I are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Sanpete County School District to voice our disapproval of the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. We feel that the rating systym that was introduced at this time does not sufficiently inform parents of the contents of the program.

We feel that a ratings system that specifically identifies what the contents are would be much more beneficial for a parents ability to choose proper programming for thier own children. We feel that what one parent feels is proper for thier child is not a general guide for all children. Parents want to make thier own assesment of a particular program, and what they feel is proper for thier child.

My husband and I suggest that a system using a content description guide would be the best and most effective way for parents to choose responsible programming for thier children. We have seen a ratings program on our Satelite TV programming that is very effective. It gives the actual movie rating, and also informs us as parents as to what the actual rating content of the program is. Such as A= Adult content, V=Violence, N=Nudity, L=Language.

The FCC, by law is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe that this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead we request the following:

*That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as the system we described in the third paragraph of this letter.

*That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to recieve more than one rating system;

*That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of the program;

*That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

*That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue that is very important to us as the parents of six children. We dedicate our lives to making the lives of our children the best that is possible for us to offer to them.

Sincerely,

Keven and Shawna Harr
Manti, Utah.

Keven & Shawna Harr
396 W. 300 So.
Manti, ut, 84642

April 2, 1997

1518 Davis
Evanston IL 60201

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We are writing to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valeneti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

- That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);
- That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

A PTA newsletter dated December 1960 that I read recently spoke of how important it is for parents to pay attention to the content of the TV programs their children were watching. It was important then and it is more important today.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Susan Salisbury
Rose R. Thomas
Paula Smith

Julia Williams
Helen B. Cain
Conni S. Jackson

Evanston, Illinois

April 2, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
#1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CS Docket NO. 97-55, FCC 97-34

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners;

I am writing to you in hopes of assisting in the changing of the present T.V. program rating system. Myself and many of my friends and colleagues are most definitely against this present system. I have not been able to change anything about the way my children watch programming. This to me means that I must watch every minute of a program sitting next to my children as they watch. If I am unable to do this, then my children will not view any network television, at all! I can't express how difficult this is when both parents work full-time. Once you return home from work, there's dinner to begin, personal business to take care of, and then getting ready to leave for the kids softball, dance, karate, etc. Where is there possibly any time to sit and monitor programming? You certainly can't trust in titles or previews of shows because they are quite deceiving. Just because they have kid actors or an adolescent storyline doesn't mean it was designed for a young audience. They will contain sexual inferences, references, and visual stimulants, vulgar language, violence and so on.

The present rating system by the T.V. Implementation Group is in fact deceiving in its ratings. For example; the "G" rating automatically causes many kids and adults to think it's synonymous with the "G" rating on the silver screen. When in fact, many of the "G" rated programs that I personally have viewed, such as: The Nanny (& other P.-time shows), Foxes breakfast show, The R. O'Donnell Show, contain the discussion of the size of women's breasts and other parts of their anatomy, cursing, a great amount of usage of alcohol and more. What kind of accurate rating is this? Furthermore, their interpretation of "TV-PG" and "TV-14" is just as ridiculous in my view. I wouldn't allow a landscaper to perform a root-canal on me, even if he does have several Orthodontists for customers. Why on earth would we want the T.V. Industry to rate their own programs? To interpret and deem appropriate for the specific ages of our children? Based on their across-the-board scale, determining for us the moralistic values and principles for each and every family in America. My families' standard I know varies from my neighbors, which varies from theirs, which varies from theirs and so on. How can this system as it is possibly be expected to work? It can't, and in many of our minds, it doesn't!

We just would like to be given the simple facts! Either it has **sexual references**, which would be rated; **S**, or it doesn't. Either it has **violent content**, which would be rated; **V**, or it doesn't. Either it contains **adult language**, which would be rated; **L**, or it doesn't. Either it contains **nudity(any degree)**, which would be rated; **N**, or it doesn't. Plain and simple! These rating symbols should also appear on the screen much longer throughout the program. Many times the initial introduction to the program is missed and you are left blind, again. Perhaps after each commercial break it could re-appear. That would be much more helpful. Also, during the kid's hour on many networks, especially Fox, the commercials are completely out of sink with the program being shown. It has been very surprising to have the cartoon interrupted by a commercial of upcoming programs showing machine guns or a woman undressing.

If the entire basis for this rating system is for the benefit of or children or even adults who may not like viewing certain kind of material, then shouldn't it be implemented to the highest standard it can possibly be? We should not need to have our entertainment interpreted by other people. Leave that to the viewers. Television programs and movies are getting worse everyday by the lack of morals and respect of each other and over excessiveness.

Give us a descriptive content-based rating so we can decide for ourselves and our children. If we miss this opportunity to improve something this powerful that was designed for a positive future, we most assuredly never get this opportunity back.

Thank you so much for making the right decision.
Sincerely,


Janette M. McDaniel

#702 Beech Hill Road
Summerville, S.C. 29485-7802

April 3, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Kingsley Elem. PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by laws, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

- * That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V(for violence), S(for sexual depiction and nudity) and L(for language);
- * That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- * That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- * That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

- * That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Bill & Sheila Greene
Co. Presidents

Kingsley Elem School PTA
Kingsport, TN



**SOUTH FLORIDA
PRESCHOOL PTA, INC.**
"Making a World of Difference"

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 31, 1997

Holly Evans
President

Anne McAndrew
Vice President

Judy Weger
Secretary

Nicole Lebon-Scagnelli
Treasurer

Chairmen Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairmen Hundt and Commissioners

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of South Florida PreSchool PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti on January 17, 1997. Our PTA was instrumental in monitoring TV programming to determine it's appropriateness for children and ultimately in prompting the recent ruling to increase the amount of educational programming for children. To say the least, our group is very concerned with the quality of programming that our children watch.

The rating system proposed by Mr. Valenti doesn't give parents enough information to make intelligent decisions about what our children should or should not be viewing. I recently was watching TV shows targeted to 6-8 year olds. I was appalled at the level of violence and the amount of aggressive language used in those programs. What the TV industry thinks is appropriate for young children doesn't match what parents think is appropriate. The only way parents can take responsibility for the viewing habits of their children is with content specific information about each TV program.

Furthermore, the FCC, by law is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

1. The FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs. Specifically, the rating system should include data on the level of violence, the amount of sex and nudity and the type of language (profanity) appearing in a program.

P.O. Box 560772, Miami, Florida 33156-0772

2. The organization determining program ratings should be independent of the entertainment industry and the FCC and it should include parents in the process.
3. Any rating system approved by the FCC should be evaluated by independent research to assess if the system meets the needs of parents.

As a mother of two small children, I want to know that my children are watching shows that are age appropriate and that communicate a message that I agree with. I don't agree with excessive violence or aggressive language in programs for children under 10. I, as a parent, need content specific information on TV programming. Mr. Valenti's rating system doesn't remotely come close to providing me with that data. Please do not approve the industry rating system.

Thank you for consideration. Our children are depending on you to make the right decision.

Sincerely,



Anne S. McAndrew
Vice President, South Florida PreSchool PTA
Miami, Florida

April 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Keeney Street School PTA of Manchester, Connecticut, to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. We, as parents, do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for our children. We would rather make those choices for our children based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen which are publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

- That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);
- That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue important to children and families.

Sincerely,
Keeney Street School PTA
Manchester, Connecticut

We concerned parents of Keeney Street School; Manchester, Connecticut are in opposition to the V-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti on January 17, 1997. We strongly urge that the FCC not approve the industry rating system, but consider implementing the proposals of the National PTA as outlined in the attached document.

Name	Address
1 Colleen Litvin	50 Joan Circle, Manchester
2 Lisa D. Bonticelli	5 Hunter Rd. Manchester
3 Robin Jazdek	295 Redwood Rd. Manchester
4 Suzanne Lip	21 Wake Farms Rd, Manchester
5 Lynn Beebe	144 Wake Farms Rd. Manchester
6 Lisa Lane	243 Keeney Street, Manchester
7 Cathy Leffert	81 Folly Brook Lane, Manchester
8 Donna Hayward	160 Saddlehill Rd, Manchester, CT 06040
9 Donna Lombardi	18 Markwood Ln, Manchester CT
10 Janeta C. Duleck	17 Hackmatack St March. Ct
11 Linda Cruff	18 Still Field Rd. Manchester CT
12 Mike Helvosen	39 Strawberry Lane Manchester
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	

March 28, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Virginia PTA to state our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. It is our sincere concern that the rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information for parents to be able to make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. This fall, the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper, conducted major surveys which demonstrate the overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on information about the content of the program. It seems useless to have any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system adequately does this and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Further, we request the following:

1. That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);
2. That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
3. That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and that it appear more frequently during the course of the program;
4. That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
5. That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments on an issue so important to our children and families.

Sincerely,

Dale & Rebecca Schultz
Chesapeake, Virginia

Mr & Mrs Schultz
904 Ricka Court
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Oakman School
Parents and Staff
Dearborn, MI 48126

March 11, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

As an individual parent or educator, I would like to make it known that I personally feel strongly about the current TV rating system in that it is not sufficient to depict the CONTENT of the programs and that I would like an independent research done to determine if the rating system will meet the needs of parents.

Thank you for allowing us to express our concerns.

Sincerely,

Oakman School
Dearborn, MI

cc: Joab Dykstra, Pres. Nat. PTA

<u>Rosemary Schimigge</u>	<u>Naval Mohsen</u>
<u>Lita A. Rangel</u>	<u>Nama Fariaj</u>
<u>John J. Rangel</u>	<u>Cleopatra Isa.</u>
<u>Sophie Huston</u>	<u>Mary S. "Mama"</u>
<u>Iman Hashim</u>	<u>Stewart-Craig</u>
<u>Naval Moubarak</u>	<u>Rhea Kison</u>
<u>Jamal Moubarak</u>	<u>Cherise</u>

Dianna H. Hartzell

Dale Moughnia

Quang Chob

Omar Mansour

Glenn Malejo
Seth J. Jami

Sandra Mather

Glenda Woods

Ryan B. Wood

Candice Santo

Joannan D. Drikey

Andrea Wagner

ANTHONY & KATHY TOZZI
14 Beaseth Court
Hamilton, NJ 08690

March 26, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: CS Docket No. 97-55
FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, *U.S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

- * That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);
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Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
Re: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Page 2

- * That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it includes parents; and,
- * That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mrs. J. Herolt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

CS925

FCC MAIL ROOM

16 April 1997
FCC
Washington, DC
7-1997
RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

2 43 PM '97
CABLE SERVICES BUREAU

CS Docket 97-155
Committee on Industry, Proposed for
Rating Video Programming

I applaud any effort to help parents
keep offensive series from children's eyes
and ears. However, I don't believe the rating
proposal will do anything of great benefit. Then
to keep strong offensive material out of
home viewing, with the difficulty of
that the ratings should be around the
parent. The ratings cannot give the
whole picture and children will still
be exposed to harmful influences.
There is too much violence, sex, and
drugs in the media to make the ratings
very helpful.

The FCC must continue to
enforce broadcasting laws against
against TV stations.

Yours truly,
Linda Plumb

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 2, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt And FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing to you on behalf of the National PTA and the PTA at Hines Middle School in Newport News, VA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, *U. S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, I request the following:

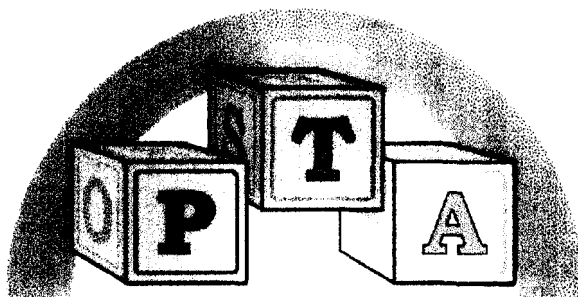
- That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);
- That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine M. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Catherine M. Thomas
824 Palace Court
Newport News, VA 23608



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Plano Area Early Childhood PTA

March 31, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and Fcc Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Rm. 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and **Plano Area Early Childhood PTA** to voice our opposition to the V-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on 3/17/97. The rating symbol on the tv screen **does not** provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. We feel that a rating system that gives us information about the content of programs would better benefit this countries parents. Parent do not want the Tv industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on the content information about the program. Any system without content description on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is **useless**.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We do not believe this system does and we ask the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead we request the following:

Under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the Fcc should not accept a rating system that does not include content information about programs such as **V(violence)**, **S(sexual content)**, **L(language)**;

That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

That the rating icon on the screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;

That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to the children and parents of Plano Area Early Childhood PTA, a network of 312 family members.

Sincerely,

Dana Korn
President, PAEC PTA
Plano, Texas